

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the last two paragraphs on page 9 of Appellants' specification as follows:

FIG. 1 is a schematic illustration of a decentralized many-to-many relationship management system; and,

FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating a process for managing state changes in the decentralized many-to-many relationship management system of FIG. 1[.]; and

FIG. 3 is a flow chart illustrating a process for managing a many-to-many relationship in an object persistence management system.

Please add the following paragraph after line 3 on page 14 of Appellants' specification:

Referring to Figure 3, a method of managing a many-to-many relationship in an object persistence management system is disclosed. In block 310, a relationship change with a related object is detected. In block 320, a directive specifying a management operation, such as "add [new key-pair entry]," for changing the relationship in a junction table is stored in a buffer. In blocks 330 and 340, a search is conducted for an opposite directive, such as "remove [existing key-pair entry]," in a buffer associated with the related object. In block 350, the stored directive is performed only if the opposite directive has not been stored in the buffer associated with said related object. In block 360, if the opposite directive is found, both the directive and opposite directive are discarded.